

ABSTRACT

A method for shredding a document which renders the information unintelligible and prevents or minimizes reassembly of the shredded document reconstruction of the information contained in the document. The ability to reassembly a shredded document is greatly reduced by shredding each page of the document into segments formed by cuts made in the blank space between characters or images on the page. A cut pattern in which all cuts are made in the blank spaces between characters or images produces pieces or shreds of the document which have no partial or portions of characters or marks which can be matched across adjacent pieces. A document is first scanned to provide an image which can be analyzed by a processor to determine a desired cut pattern for the document. The processor then generates a set of instructions to control and adjust the cutting blades in a shredding device to cut the document in the desired cut pattern.